

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

8451
opy 2

SDS



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Office of
Public Affairs

Selected Speeches and News Releases

Dec. 10 - Dec. 16, 1992

IN THIS ISSUE:

News Releases—

National Forest Receipts Yield \$324 Million to States

USDA Actions for Employees with Disabilities

USDA Revises Scrapie Indemnity Payment Plan for Sheep and Goats

USDA Announces Prevailing World Market Price and User Market Price and User Marketing Certificate Payment Rate for Upland Cotton

USDA Makes Additional Allocations to 1992 Dairy Export Program

Underactivity, Not Overeating, to Blame for the Bulk of Body Fat

Volume Controls on California, Arizona Citrus Halted

USDA Revises U.S. Wheat Standards

New Blue Hop Vine Adds Color to Gardens

USDA Amends U.S. Sorghum Standards

USDA Announces Prevailing World Market Rice Prices

Farmers Put Water Quality Practices on Half A Million Acres

USDA Announces 1993 Peanut Poundage Quota

U.S. to Donate Corn to Poland

USDA Signs Agreement to Help Venezuela Reclaim Tropical Rain Forests

Continued on Inside Cover

News Releases—Continued

USDA Announces 1993-Crop Flue-Cured Tobacco Program

USDA's Hotline Offers Safety Tips for Mail Order Food Gifts

Utah Stamps out Pseudorabies; Other States Make Advances

News Releases

U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Public Affairs

Ann Matejko (202) 205-0929
Arthur Whitmore (202) 205-4026

NATIONAL FOREST RECEIPTS YIELD \$324 MILLION TO STATES

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10—Forty-one states and Puerto Rico will receive about \$324 million in national forest receipts for fiscal 1992, F. Dale Robertson, Chief of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service, announced today.

On Sept. 28, USDA made interim payments of \$236 million to states based on estimated national forest revenues for the year. A final payment of \$88 million, based on actual receipts collected during the year, will be paid today, Robertson said.

Actual fiscal 1992 receipts collected from the sale and use of national forest resources totaled \$1.11 billion.

By law, 25 percent of the revenues collected by the Forest Service from the use of national forest system lands and resources are returned to the states where the lands are located. The states are required to use the funds for schools and roads. Robertson said the funds are collected primarily from timber sales, grazing, recreation and minerals extraction on 191 million acres of national forest system lands.

These payments do not include 25 percent of the 1992 national grassland revenues. Payments from grassland use are based on calendar year 1992 receipts and will be made to the states in March 1993.

The three states receiving the largest forest receipt payments are: Oregon, \$137 million; California, \$60 million; and Washington, \$35 million.

National Forest APayments to States - Fiscal Year 1992

State	Total Payment	Actual Interim Payment Made Sept. 28	Final Payment
ALABAMA	1,881,981.22	1,464,318.57	417,662.65
ALASKA	3,345,950.44	1,029,544.70	2,316,405.74
ARIZONA	6,125,695.16	4,352,380.25	1,773,314.91
ARKANSAS*/	2,141,293.04	2,347,278.35	-205,985.31
CALIFORNIA**/	59,580,922.17	40,879,317.81	18,701,604.36
COLORADO	4,538,913.53	3,221,067.39	1,317,846.14
FLORIDA	1,503,569.12	1,127,812.52	375,756.60
GEORGIA	1,225,869.10	886,875.01	338,994.09
IDAHO	19,427,079.28	14,412,184.16	5,014,895.12
ILLINOIS	40,784.24	30,768.75	10,015.49
INDIANA	11,859.68	8,538.33	3,321.35
KENTUCKY	646,572.27	477,250.97	169,321.30
LOUISIANA	3,888,688.27	2,196,289.88	1,692,398.39
MAINE	30,982.64	22,758.56	8,224.08
MICHIGAN	1,906,690.24	1,301,043.77	605,646.47
MINNESOTA	2,455,163.33	1,723,310.85	731,852.48
MISSISSIPPI	6,147,256.79	4,281,951.97	1,865,304.82
MISSOURI	1,366,714.82	947,812.54	418,902.28
MONTANA	11,839,490.13	7,745,086.86	4,094,403.27
NEBRASKA	44,574.57	34,059.38	10,515.19
NEVADA	425,283.05	283,567.19	141,715.86
NEW HAMPSHIRE	454,605.69	333,289.92	121,315.77
NEW MEXICO	2,007,276.46	1,433,962.79	573,313.67
NEW YORK*/	1,755.19	2,756.42	-1,001,23
NORTH CAROLINA	722,720.12	495,910.74	226,809.38
NORTH DAKOTA	91.53	65.59	25.94
OHIO	132,986.34	114,908.26	18,078.08
OKLAHOMA*/	247,900.72	260,137.43	-12,236.71
OREGON**/	136,540,593.13	104,749,379.02	31,791,214.11
PENNSYLVANIA	4,923,027.09	3,155,887.05	1,767,140.04
SOUTH CAROLINA	1,730,505.90	1,417,877.54	312,628.36
SOUTH DAKOTA	2,983,000.04	2,065,598.83	917,401.21
TENNESSEE	511,875.21	316,058.80	195,816.41
TEXAS	3,513,039.64	2,248,105.37	1,264,934.27

UTAH	1,565,081.26	1,009,500.03	555,581.23
VERMONT	167,641.47	116,863.02	50,778.45
VIRGINIA	530,885.01	344,917.38	185,967.63
WASHINGTON**/	35,103,924.21	26,368,331.63	8,735,592.58
WEST VIRGINIA	1,061,686.74	720,680.02	341,006.72
WISCONSIN	952,687.17	629,955.42	322,731.75
WYOMING	2,127,068.13	1,540,526.64	586,541.49
PUERTO RICO	17,336.63	12,187.51	5,149.12
 GRAND TOTAL	323,871,020.77	236,110,117.22	87,760,903.55

*/ This deficit was created because all the revenue estimated at 6/30/92 was not realized.

**/ Final payments to California, Oregon and Washington were computed under a provision of the Interior and Related Agencies 1992 Appropriations Act. Section 316 of that Act provides for payments to states for fiscal 1992 of not less than 90% of the five-year average payments for fiscal years 1986-90 for those national forests affected by decisions on the northern spotted owl. Estimated payments to these states would be lower if based solely on actual receipts.

#

Ophelia Falls (202) 720-2600
(voice and TDD)

USDA ACTIONS FOR EMPLOYEES WITH DISABILITIES

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10—The U.S. Department of Agriculture will hold a grand opening of its "TARGET" Center on December 14 at 10 a.m. in Jefferson Auditorium in USDA's South Building.

"TARGET," which stands for "Technology Accessible Resources Give Employment Today," is the name of the Center USDA has established to assist USDA managers, as well as current and prospective employees with disabilities, in locating, selecting, and evaluating devices and other forms of technology to help those employees function effectively in the workplace.

The opening event will feature remarks by Deputy Secretary Ann Veneman, Assistant Secretary for Administration Charles Hilty, and Rick Douglas, executive director of the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities. Employees and reporters can then tour the facility,

located elsewhere in the South Building. Visitors will be able to view demonstrations of different forms of technology which promote accessibility.

On December 16 a post-lunch discussion on sensitivity awareness from 1:15 to 1:45 p.m. in the Executive Dining Room in USDA's Administration Building is open to the media. This is part of an all-day USDA-sponsored "Disability Sensitivity Awareness Session" during which several USDA officials will spend the day functioning with an identified disability, in order to develop an awareness of, and sensitivity to, that particular disability.

#

Kendra Pratt (301) 436-4898
Arthur Whitmore (202) 720-4026

USDA REVISES SCRAPIE INDEMNITY PAYMENT PLAN FOR SHEEP AND GOATS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today revised the indemnity payment plan for sheep and goats infected with or exposed to scrapie, reducing the maximum indemnity paid for each sheep or goat.

Billy G. Johnson, deputy administrator for USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, said that under the new rules APHIS will pay up to \$150 for each registered sheep and goat and \$50 for all other sheep and goats destroyed for scrapie if producers apply within six months after these changes become effective on Jan. 8, 1993. Animals used for diagnostic testing also are eligible for indemnity payments.

The old regulations allowed owners of scrapie-infected flocks to apply for federal indemnification at fair-market value, but were paid only until fiscal funding for the program was exhausted.

The revised plan requires a producer who had an indemnified flock to enroll in the voluntary scrapie flock certification program upon repopulation. Such producers must dispose of infected and exposed animals if they become reinfected, regularly test flocks and keep animal sale records. The voluntary program will monitor flocks for five years or more and identify those that are scrapie-free.

The new indemnity plan requires producers to provide APHIS with records of animals moved in and out of their flocks within 30 days of applying for indemnification. Indemnity will not be paid for animals purchased within six months or to producers owning a flock for less than one year before applying for indemnity.

Johnson said these new requirements will deter producers from acquiring scrapie-affected animals for indemnities.

"These changes should benefit the sheep and goat industry in both the short and long term as more producers are approved for indemnification and are enrolled in the voluntary scrapie flock certification program," he said.

Notice of the revised indemnity payment plan for scrapie was published Dec. 9 in the Federal Register.

NOTICE TO EDITORS: Additional information and an explanatory chart on the Voluntary Scrapie Certification Program are available upon request from Kendra Pratt, Public Information, Legislative and Public Affairs, APHIS, USDA, Room 613 Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782; telephone (301) 436-4898.

#

Janise Zygmont (202) 720-7954
Charles Hobbs (202) 720-4026

USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE AND USER MARKETING CERTIFICATE PAYMENT RATE FOR UPLAND COTTON

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10—Keith Bjerke, executive vice president of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation, today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (micronaire 3.5-3.6 and 4.3-4.9, strength 24-25 grams per tex) upland cotton (base quality) and the coarse count adjustment (CCA) in effect from 5:00 p.m. today through 3:59 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 17. The user marketing certificate payment rate announced today is in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, Dec. 11, through midnight Thursday, Dec. 17.

The Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended, provides that the AWP may be further adjusted if: (a) the AWP is less than 115 percent of the current crop year loan rate for base quality upland cotton, and (b) the Friday through Thursday average price quotation for the lowest-priced U.S. growth as quoted for Middling (M) 1-3/32 inch cotton, C.I.F. northern Europe (USNE price) exceeds the Northern Europe (NE) price. The maximum allowable adjustment is the difference between the USNE price and the NE price.

A further adjustment to this week's calculated AWP may be made in accordance with this provision. The calculated AWP is 77 percent of the

1992 upland cotton base quality loan rate, and the USNE price exceeds the NE price by 5.75 cents per pound. Following are the relevant calculations:

I.	Calculated AWP	40.42 cents per pound
	1992 Base Loan Rate	52.35 cents per pound
	AWP as a Percent of Loan Rate	77
II.	USNE Price	59.85 cents per pound
	NE Price	-54.10 cents per pound
	Maximum Adjustment Allowed	<u>5.75</u> cents per pound

Based on a consideration of the U.S. share of world exports, the current level of cotton export sales and cotton export shipments, and other relevant data, no further adjustment to this week's calculated AWP will be made.

This week's AWP and coarse count adjustment are determined as follows:

Adjusted World Price

NE Price 54.10

Adjustments:

Average U.S. spot market location 11.82

SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton 1.55

Average U.S. location 0.31

Sum of Adjustments -13.68

Calculated AWP 40.42

Further AWP Adjustment - 0

ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE 40.42 cents/lb.

Coarse Count Adjustment

NE Price 54.10

NE Coarse Count Price -49.86

..... 4.24

Adjustment to SLM 1-1/32 inch cotton -3.95

COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT 0.29 cents/lb.

Because the AWP is below the 1991 and 1992 base quality loan rates of 50.77 and 52.35 cents per pound, respectively, the loan repayment rate during this period is equal to the AWP, adjusted for the specific quality and location plus applicable interest and storage charges. The AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates.

Because the AWP is below the 1992-crop loan rate, cash loan deficiency payments will be paid to eligible producers who agree to forgo obtaining a

price support loan with respect to the 1992 crop. The payment rate is equal to the difference between the loan rate and the AWP. Producers are allowed to obtain a loan deficiency payment on a bale-by-bale basis.

The USNE price has exceeded the NE price by more than 1.25 cents per pound for four consecutive weeks and the AWP has not exceeded 130 percent of the 1992 crop year base quality loan rate in any week of the 4-week period. As a result, the user marketing certificate payment rate is 4.50 cents per pound. This rate is applicable for bales opened by domestic users and for cotton contracts entered into by exporters for delivery prior to September 30, 1993. Relevant data used in determining the user marketing certificate payment rate are summarized below:

Week	For the		USNE Current Price	NE Current Price	USNE Minus NE	Certificate Payment Rate 1/ #
	Friday through Thursday	Period				
1	Nov. 19, 1992		58.30	52.69	5.61	4.36
2	Nov. 26, 1992		58.10	53.15	4.95	3.70
3	Dec. 3, 1992		58.35	53.48	4.87	3.62
4	Dec. 10, 1992		59.85	54.10	5.75	4.50

1/ USNE price minus NE price minus 1.25 cents.

Next week's AWP, CCA and user marketing certificate payment rate will be announced at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 17.

#

Sally Klusaritz (202) 720-3448
Arthur Whitmore (202) 720-4026

USDA MAKES ADDITIONAL ALLOCATIONS TO 1992 DAIRY EXPORT PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11—Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture R. Randall Green today announced that Algeria, Mexico and Egypt are eligible for additional allocations of dairy products under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Dairy Export Incentive Program.

The allocations in metric tons are as follows:

Algeria:	15,000 tons of milk powder
	5,000 tons of butterfat
Mexico:	15,000 tons of milk powder
Egypt:	500 tons cheese

Sales of these commodities will be made through normal commercial channels at competitive world prices. Sales will be facilitated through the payment of bonuses of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation.

The allocations will be valid until Dec. 31 as provided in the invitations for offers. Details of the program will be issued in the near future.

For more information call Randy Baxter, (202) 720-5540, or Larry McElvain, (202) 720-6211.

#

Judy McBride (301) 504-8932
Leslie Parker (202) 720-4026

UNDERACTIVITY, NOT OVEREATING, TO BLAME FOR THE BULK OF BODY FAT

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14—For many adults, the battle of the bulge is more likely due to too little physical activity throughout the day than to eating too many calories, a U.S. Department of Agriculture study shows.

Researchers at USDA's Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts University in Boston report that men over 65 leading normal lifestyles consumed substantially more calories during a 10-day study than currently recommended for their age group. The researchers earlier reported the same finding for men in their twenties. All the men were of average weight.

Study leader Susan B. Roberts, a physiologist, said there was no correlation between the men's body fat levels and their calorie intake in either age group. But there was a significant inverse relationship with physical activity. The more activity—the less fat.

"Our results support the suggestion that the current Recommended Dietary Allowances for energy (calories) may significantly underestimate actual energy requirements," Roberts and colleagues reported in December's International Journal of Obesity, published in England.

The RDA for men 51 to 75 years of age is 2,400 calories daily, with a range of 2,000 to 2,800 depending on body size. The nine volunteers in this study burned an average 2,800 calories daily, Roberts said. That's because

their physical activity was significantly higher than the value used to calculate the RDA.

She said such information helps health professionals determine whether the food intake for different population groups is sufficient. And it allows USDA to fine tune how much food aid should be given to poor families based on how many calories they actually need.

The study results also provide a more accurate basis for setting weight reduction diets, she said. "Men are typically prescribed a 1,500-calorie diet, which is considered a fairly moderate cut in calories. Our results indicate that it's quite a big drop relative to normal intake."

"I think the prescription should be to get more exercise," she said, noting that the men in the study who had the lowest energy expenditure for physical activity had the most body fat.

Climbing the stairs instead of taking the elevator, moving around instead of sitting still, sitting up instead of lying down and being excited instead of bored, all add up to burning more calories.

"A half-hour aerobic workout accounts for far less energy expenditure than our minute-to-minute movement in the office or at home," she said, Roberts and colleagues measured the total amount of energy the men expended daily as well as the amount they used to maintain basal metabolism. Dividing the first number by the second number, she explained, gives a value for their physical activity.

The RDA for older men is based on a physical activity value of 1.5 compared to 1.75 averaged in this study, she said, nearly 17 percent higher. She earlier reported a difference of similar magnitude for men in their twenties.

"These numbers will be useful in adjusting the RDA," she said. Roberts repeated the study with older men after finding that men in their twenties consume and burn substantially more calories than recommended because "young men may not be representative of other groups," she said.

As in the earlier study, the researchers used two methods to arrive at the men's energy requirements and serve as cross checks. They determined the amount of energy each volunteer needed to maintain weight by measuring how many calories each consumed over the course of a week.

They also measured the total amount of energy each man burned, and thus needed to replace, by a method that allows volunteers to follow a normal lifestyle. Volunteers needed only to drink some water containing nonradioactive isotopes of both hydrogen and oxygen and collect urine samples for researchers to measure the disappearance rates of each isotope.

The total energy expended can be estimated quite accurately from the differences in these rates, Roberts explained.

Roberts, William J. Evans and colleagues in the USDA center's Physiology Laboratory collaborated on the study with researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Mass.

NOTE TO EDITOR: For details, contact Susan B. Roberts, physiologist, USDA Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts, Agricultural Research Service, Boston, Mass. 02111. Telephone: (617) 556-3238 or -3075.

#

Roger Runningen (202) 720-4623

VOLUME CONTROLS ON CALIFORNIA, ARIZONA CITRUS HALTED

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service today announced that, for the remainder of the season, USDA will no longer approve weekly volume controls that limit the fresh sale in the U.S. and Canada of navel oranges and lemons grown in California and Arizona. In reaching this decision, the Department concluded that volume controls are not necessary at this time to effectuate the declared policy of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937.

Based on recent experience, the Department expects that this action will directly benefit consumers, producers, and workers. Consumers will have access to more fresh fruit at reduced prices, while the increased quantity of fruit expected to be sold on the fresh market will increase producer revenue and provide more job opportunities for pickers and packers. Several recent periods in which fruit has been sold without weekly quotas have demonstrated that open and competitive markets are more effective than government regulation in achieving the objectives of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act.

The decision announced today was based on a thorough review of current market conditions, on USDA guidelines that encourage industries to shift their marketing programs toward market enhancement rather than volume restrictions, and on the moratorium on new regulations that President Bush announced in his State of the Union address last January. Under the president's moratorium, with certain exceptions, new regulations are not to be issued unless they are expected to foster economic growth.

#

Dana Stewart (202) 720-5091
Arthur Whitmore (202) 720-9899

USDA REVISES U.S. WHEAT STANDARDS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Grain Inspection Service today published revised U.S. standards for wheat.

According to FGIS Administrator John C. Foltz, revisions include: removing the description Red Durum wheat from the definition of Unclassed wheat; reducing the U.S. sample grade criteria for stones and glass; establishing a cumulative total criteria for factors which may cause U.S. sample grade; reducing ergot limits; reducing the minimum criteria for the special grade light smutty wheat; and, reducing the grading limits for foreign material in grades 1, 2, and 3.

Foltz said these refinements in grading standards are part of FGIS' ongoing effort to respond to changing needs of the U.S. wheat marketing system. They will better define the quality of U.S. wheat subject to official inspection.

FGIS also revised the Cu-Sum statistical shiploading plan tolerances for wheat based on these changes.

The revisions become effective May 1, 1993.

#

Julie Corliss (510) 559-6069
Leslie Parker (202) 720-4026

NEW BLUE HOP VINE ADDS COLOR TO GARDENS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15—Hops give beer its thirst-quenching, mildly bitter flavor, but an unusual new blue hop variety—released last month by the U.S. Department of Agriculture—may have a second life as an ornamental vine for gardens.

Geneticist Alfred Haunold, hop-breeding expert at USDA's Agricultural Research Service, said his Blue Northern Brewer hop vine could "add a touch of blue to your patio or garden."

"Most hop plants are lush, leafy green vines, but not this one," he said. "The vine is dark purple, with bluish-purple leaves and clusters of yellowish-green flowers." Hop flowers, known as cones, hold glands filled with aromatic oils and bitter acids used to flavor beer.

"Grown on a trellis, Blue Northern Brewer vines could provide shade on warm summer days," said Haunold, curator of the World Hop Cultivar Collection housed in the ARS Clonal Germplasm Repository in Corvallis, Ore. The collection contains over 700 different breeding lines that he uses to create new, improved varieties for commercial hop producers.

But each year, he said, dozens of people who want to grow their own hops—either as ornamentals or for brewing home-made beer—ask him for hop cuttings. Also, "curators of botanical and ornamental gardens in California, Wisconsin, Massachusetts and other states have requested hops to grow in their display gardens," he said.

Hops are perennials, but the above-ground part of the plant dies back over winter. Haunold said vines of Blue Northern Brewer will likely grow well in most states except the deep South. That's because they require near-freezing temperatures over the winter—as do other hop varieties—to break their dormancy. The vines re-emerge from underground buds and grow rapidly in spring and summer.

Commercial hop vines can grow up to 18 feet tall. Blue Northern rarely gets that tall and yields fewer cones. But it's fairly easy to grow and doesn't need much water, Haunold said. The hardy rootstock, which has numerous buds, is rarely damaged even by a severe frost if kept covered with soil.

Haunold currently has a limited supply of rooted cuttings, but plans to have more in the spring of 1993 for distribution to nurseries, breeders and growers.

The new vine originally came to the Corvallis collection from Belgium 18 years ago. Haunold said its purple-blue color probably resulted from a one-time mutation in a regular Northern Brewer hop variety.

NOTE TO EDITORS: For details, contact Alfred Haunold, geneticist, World Hop Cultivar Collection, USDA, ARS, Corvallis, Ore. 97331-7102. Telephone: (503) 737-5841. Color photos and slides are available from the Photography Division, OPA, USDA, Room 4404S Washington, D.C. 20250. Telephone: (202) 720-6633.

#

Dana Stewart (202) 720-5091
Arthur Whitmore (202) 720-4026

USDA AMENDS U.S. SORGHUM STANDARDS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Grain Inspection Service today revised the U.S. standards for sorghum.

According to FGIS administrator John C. Foltz, the revisions reduce the maximum "broken kernels and foreign material" (BNFM) limits for U.S. No. 2 sorghum by 1 percent and for U.S. Nos. 3 and 4 by 2 percent; establish grade limits for foreign material; reduce the amount of Brown sorghum allowed in Yellow sorghum from 10 to 3 percent; modify the classification terminology for the classes Yellow and Brown sorghum; and revise the definitions for all classes of sorghum.

These changes, Foltz said, will encourage the production and delivery of high quality U.S. sorghum and facilitate its orderly marketing.

FGIS also is changing the Cu-Sum statistical shiploading plan tolerances for sorghum based on these revisions.

These revised standards will become effective June 1, 1993.

#

Gene Rosera (202) 720-6734
Charles Hobbs (202) 720-4026

USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15—Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture Randall Green today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

- long grain whole kernels, 8.63 cents per pound;
- medium grain whole kernels, 7.81 cents per pound;
- short grain whole kernels, 7.78 cents per pound;
- broken kernels, 4.32 cents per pound.

Based upon these prevailing world market prices for milled rice, loan deficiency payment rates and gains from repaying price support loans at the world market price level are:

- for long grain, \$1.31 per hundredweight;
- for medium grain, \$1.22 per hundredweight;
- for short grain, \$1.23 per hundredweight.

The prices announced are effective today at 3 p.m. EST. The next scheduled price announcement will be made Dec. 22 at 3 p.m. EST.

#

Diana Morse (202) 720-4772
Arthur Whitmore (202) 720-4026

FARMERS PUT WATER QUALITY PRACTICES ON HALF A MILLION ACRES

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15—U.S. farmers put water quality practices into effect on 550,000 acres of the nation's cropland in fiscal 1991 under water quality projects initiated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"These projects reduce soil erosion and sedimentation, improve the handling of animal waste, and reduce the application of nutrients," said William Richards, chief of USDA's Soil Conservation Service.

Richards said the projects are accelerating the voluntary adoption of economically sound water quality practices by farmers and ranchers.

SCS and two other USDA agencies, the Extension Service and the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, provide leadership for the projects, which include educational, technical, and financial assistance to producers to improve water quality. Activities are coordinated with soil conservation districts, state water quality agencies, the Environmental Protection Agency, and other state and federal agencies.

Myron Johnsrud, administrator of the Extension Service, said, "We feel these projects demonstrate what can be accomplished, working jointly at all levels."

USDA estimates that 10,000 producers participated in efforts during fiscal 1991 in 74 selected agricultural watersheds and 16 demonstration projects across the country. Of the total —

- 3,300 producers reduced soil erosion and sedimentation on 414,000 acres;
- 325 producers improved animal waste storage and application practices on 68,000 acres;
- 1,300 producers carried out practices that reduced the application of nitrogen by 2.6 million pounds and phosphorous by 1.7 million pounds; and
- 600 producers decreased the application of pesticides by about 1 pound of active ingredient per acre.

Water quality practices include nutrient management practices, animal waste systems, stripcropping, field border strips, irrigation management, and integrated pest management.

The purposes of the projects are twofold:

For hydrologic unit areas, the purpose is to solve specific nonpoint source pollution problems in specific areas.

For demonstration projects, the purpose is to use new and innovative practices and to transfer information outside the demonstration area to other regions that have similar problems.

Each state except Nevada and Alaska has at least one hydrologic unit area project. The 16 demonstration projects are located in Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, and Wisconsin.

The five year projects began in 1990 and are part of the USDA's Water Quality Initiative.

#

Robert Feist (202) 720-6789
Phil Villa-Lobos (202) 720-4026

USDA ANNOUNCES 1993 PEANUT POUNDAGE QUOTA

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced the national peanut poundage quota for the 1993 marketing year as 1,496,000 short tons, or 2,992 million pounds. The quota is 44,000 short tons (88 million pounds) less than last year.

Keith Bjerke, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, said legislation requires the announcement of the final national poundage quota by Dec. 15.

The law also requires the national poundage quota for the 1993 crop to be equal to the quantity of peanuts that will be devoted to domestic edible, seed and related use in the 1993 marketing year which begins Aug. 1.

The 1993 crop national poundage quota will be allocated to each state based on the state's share of the 1990 crop national poundage quota.

Decreases in a state's poundage quota will be allocated among farms eligible for quotas.

#

Sally Klusaritz (202) 720-3448
Arthur Whitmore (202) 720-4026

U.S. TO DONATE CORN TO POLAND

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15—The United States will donate 200,000 metric tons of corn to Poland under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food for Progress program, Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan said today.

Madigan said the \$19.0 million donation will be sold by the Polish government to the private sector to help meet the livestock feed needs of Polish farmers.

Poland will pay for all ocean transportation, inland transportation, handling, storage and distribution costs within Poland. In accordance with cargo preference requirements, 75 percent of the commodities will be shipped on U.S. flag vessels.

Under the Food for Progress Program, USDA provides commodities to needy countries to encourage agricultural reform. Under the terms of this agreement, Poland has agreed to carry out a number of measures to expand the role of the private sector and improve food supplies.

The corn will be purchased on behalf of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation on an open tender basis by USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service's Kansas City commodity office. The supply period is fiscal 1993.

For more information, contact James F. Keefer, with USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, at (202) 720-9263.

#

Pamela Finney (202) 205-1584
Phil Villa-Lobos (202) 720-4026

USDA SIGNS AGREEMENT TO HELP VENEZUELA RECLAIM TROPICAL RAIN FORESTS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15—An international cooperative agreement was signed today between the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Venezuela to help the Venezuelan Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock reclaim tropical rain forests in the Guayana region.

At the signing, USDA's Forest Service Chief F. Dale Robertson said, "This international agreement recognizes the importance of preserving the integrity of tropical rain forests on a hemispheric and global scale."

The five-year agreement calls for the reclamation of areas disturbed by small mining operations, including a major reduction in sedimentation and mercury contamination in streams and rivers.

Through the Guayana region of Venezuela flows the Orinoco River, a major South American watershed. This river flows into the Atlantic Ocean near Trinidad. The Forest Service will assist Venezuelans in promoting sound reclamation and environmentally safe mineral development practices for this region.

Under the agreement the Forest Service will provide a long-term advisor and several short-term working groups who will visit the Guayana region periodically.

"We will assist in education and training for Venezuelan resource specialists. We will also facilitate research and cooperative studies on natural resources management," Robertson said.

This project will serve as a model for developing sound rain forest ecosystem management in other Latin American countries, said Robertson.

#

Robert Feist (202) 720-6789
Phil Villa-Lobos (202) 720-4026

USDA ANNOUNCES 1993-CROP FLUE-CURED TOBACCO PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced the following provisions of the 1993 flue-cured tobacco program:

The national marketing quota for the 1993 crop is 891.8 million pounds, unchanged from 1992, and is based on the following:

	Million Lbs.
—Purchase intentions of domestic cigarette manufacturers	473.0
—Unmanufactured exports (3-year average)	405.6
—Reserve stock adjustment	9.6
—Discretionary adjustment	3.6

The national average yield goal remains unchanged at 2,088 pounds per acre.

The support level for the 1993 crop is \$1.577 per pound, up 1.7 cents from 1992.

The national acreage allotment for the 1993 crop is 427,107 acres, unchanged from 1992.

For each farm, the 1993 basic quota will remain virtually the same as 1992.

The effective quota is expected to be about 887 million pounds, or about 12 million below 1992.

The marketing assessment under the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 will be 0.7885 cents per pound on both growers and buyers, for a total of 1.577 cents per pound for the 1993 crop of flue-cured tobacco.

The no-net-cost program assessment will be announced later.

In a January 1992 referendum, producers approved acreage-poundage quotas for the 1992 through 1994 crops.

#

Susan Conley (202) 690-0351
Leslie Parker (202) 720-4026
Issued: Dec. 16, 1992

USDA'S HOTLINE OFFERS SAFETY TIPS FOR MAIL ORDER FOOD GIFTS

WASHINGTON—This holiday season many people avoid crowded shopping malls by ordering gifts from mail order catalogues. Specialty foods—smoked turkeys, succulent steaks, hams, exotic fruits, cheeses and luscious desserts—was convenient, popular choices. But these one-size-fits-all gifts must be handled properly to ensure safety and high quality.

Susan Conley, manager of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Meat and Poultry Hotline, said, "The hotline answers dozens of questions each year from consumers who aren't sure whether the food gifts they've received are safe to eat."

"Many perishable food items must be kept cold during transit to prevent the growth of harmful bacteria," said Conley. "So ask the shipper how foods that require refrigeration will be packaged and sent." Most reliable mail order food companies use specially designed insulated packaging, and quick or refrigerated delivery services.

"Also, when sending a food gift through the mail," said Conley, "one of the most important steps is to alert the recipient—even though you would like the gift to be a surprise! We talk to many people who couldn't use a food item because the package sat on a doorstep or in an office for several hours, or even days, after delivery."

The Hotline offers these additional tips for ensuring the safety of holiday food gifts—whether the gifts are from a mail-order catalogue or your kitchen:

—Perishable food should be packed for shipping in foam-insulated containers or heavy corrugated boxes. Containers should include a cold source of dry ice or a frozen gel-pack to keep meat, poultry and other perishables cold or frozen.

—The package should be clearly marked “keep refrigerated,” “keep frozen,” or “perishable.”

—Arrange a delivery date with the recipient so someone will be available to receive the package and refrigerate it immediately. Don’t send the gift to the office, where if refrigeration is not available the food could sit overnight and spoil.

The Hotline also has some tips for the recipients of gift foods:

—Check the condition of the food upon arrival. If the product says “keep refrigerated” (or “keep frozen”) on the label, it must be frozen or very cold to the touch.

—Not all mail order foods require refrigeration. Some—like hard cheeses, hard dry sausages and some canned hams—are processed to be shelf stable. Check the label. If it does not state “keep refrigerated” this indicates a shelf stable product.

—Many smoked products, especially smoked poultry, do require refrigeration. Again, follow the label directions.

—When mailing home-prepared food, freeze the food, include a cold source and send it by overnight delivery. Mark the package “keep refrigerated.”

The USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline food safety specialists will answer questions about mail order foods and other holiday food safety issues from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. EST, Monday through Friday. The Hotline number is 1-800-535-4555. Washington D.C. area residents may call 202-720-3333.

#

Kendra Pratt (301) 436-4898
Diane O'Connor (202) 720-4026

UTAH STAMPS OUT PSEUDORABIES; OTHER STATES MAKE ADVANCES

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16—Utah is now the second state free of the livestock disease pseudorabies, a U.S. Department of Agriculture official said today.

Utah and Maine are the only two states that have achieved Stage V status in the State-Federal-Industry Cooperative Pseudorabies Eradication Program, said Billy G. Johnson, deputy administrator of veterinary services in USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

"Pork producers and state officials in Utah met the challenge and wiped out this highly contagious disease from their swine herds," Johnson said.

In the last six months, Arizona advanced from Stage III to Stage IV; Georgia advanced from Stage II to Stage III; and Pennsylvania advanced from Stage I to Stage II. The Virgin Islands also have joined the program at Stage I.

States participating in the eradication program advance from Stage I to Stage V. Stage I is preparation; stage II is control; stage III is mandatory clean-up of all pseudorabies-infected herds; and stage IV is surveillance to make sure no infection remains. Stage V—official recognition of freedom from pseudorabies—is achieved if a state in Stage IV goes for one year without finding an infected swine herd.

Pseudorabies is a viral disease most prevalent in swine, often causing newborn piglets to die. Older pigs can survive infection and be carriers of the virus for life. Other animals, such as cattle, sheep, dogs and cats, can become infected. In these species, pseudorabies can cause quick death.

States participating in the pseudorabies eradication program and their current status are:

Stage I: Delaware, Florida, Iowa, Maryland, New Jersey, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands;

Stage II: California, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee and Washington;

Combination Stage II/III: Michigan, Minnesota and North Carolina.

Stage III: Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Ohio, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin;

Stage IV: Alaska, Arizona, Connecticut, Hawaii, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York and Wyoming;

Stage V: Maine and Utah.

#

